

engrossed and involved in coming up with better ways to deal with education in the State of Nebraska. I, like Senator Lamb, have spent all the years that I have been here on the Education Committee by choice also and as Senator Lamb pointed out, I think all of us that serve on that committee have education at heart even though we may differ somewhat on ways to address the situation. It will be very interesting to see the various ideas that are forthcoming on Select File. I guess it would be also interesting to those of us in the Education Committee to find out whether or not there are new ideas. They may be ideas that we have dealt with in the past in the Education Committee, I do not know. But I would also indicate that I recognize, as I think a lot of people do, that absolutely this is a band-aid approach. It would be a lot better to do a lot of other major things. Senator Johnson spoke about the curriculum. He was a little bit mistaken though. There are requirements under the accreditation standards that do require certain curriculum to be offered. It is true we don't have it in statute, and it is true that we don't require certain textbooks to be used or anything of that nature. I suppose that if we wanted to do that from the state level, if we wanted to require certain amounts of time be spent on certain areas, there certainly would be nothing wrong with that. I think we would have to also recognize that that might be a way to cut down on the number of school districts we have in this state if we make those requirements high enough. Maybe that is one reason it hasn't been out here before. I, for one, would like to have minimum salaries for teachers high enough so that people could stay in the profession, so that it would, in fact, be a profession, so that as Senator DeCamp pointed out that certification would, in fact, mean something. But we all know it is because of economics. Now if somebody wants to bring a bill or amend this bill to do that, that is fine with me. But I don't know whether there is going to be enough votes on this floor to do that. Now, I guess the point is that I...Senator Chambers pointed out that this would be a little whimpering bill perhaps when it gets over to Final Reading because some of these other things may not happen, but if it doesn't happen, then I guess...and I think he used the term "blowing smoke", I think I would have to say that there are some people on General File that have been blowing smoke. It is nice to talk about these programs. It is nice to say we need to do more, but I wonder if we are willing to put our money where our mouth is. I wonder if we are willing to really say, yes, we are going to make a commitment in this state to education and that commitment is going to cost us several